

DECEMBER 18, 1807.

Read the first and second time, and committed to a committee of the whole House, on Monday next.

A Bill,

For incorporating the associate reformed church in the city of Washington.

1 Sec. 1. *BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That*
3 Joseph Nourse, William Brown, John M'Gowan, Toppan Webster,
4 William Mackey, Alexander M'Donald, Samuel Collingwood,
5 Thomas Patterson, and Michael Nourse, and their successors, duly
6 elected and appointed in manner hereinafter directed, be, and they
7 are hereby made, declared, and constituted a corporation and body
8 politic in law, and in fact, to have continuance forever, by the name
9 and stile of "the trustees of the associate reformed presbyterian
10 congregation, in the city of Washington."

1 Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted, That* all and singular the lands
2 or tenements, which have been purchased or built for, or on account
3 of said congregation, be, and they are hereby vested in the said
4 corporation; and that the said corporation may purchase, take, re-

5 ceive and enjoy any lands, tenements, rents, annuities, rights, or
 6 privileges, or any goods, chattels or other effects, of what kind or
 7 nature soever, which shall or may hereafter be given, granted, sold,
 8 devised or bequeathed to them by any person or persons, bodies
 9 politic or corporate, capable of making such gift, grant, sale or be-
 10 quest; and the said property, real and personal, to hold, rent, sell,
 11 convey and confirm, or otherwise dispose of, as fully and effectually
 12 as any person or persons, bodies corporate or politic, may or can
 13 do: *Provided*, That the clear annual income of all such property
 14 shall not exceed three thousand dollars; and that the lands and
 15 tenements now belonging to the said congregation, or whatever may
 16 hereafter be given, granted, sold, devised or bequeathed, whether
 17 real or personal, be considered as holden in trust, under the man-
 18 agement of the said corporation, solely for the purposes of defraying
 19 the expenses incident to their mode of religious worship, inclosing
 20 and keeping in repair their grave yards, and other lots and buildings
 21 which they do or may hereafter possess, and of affording such relief
 22 to their poor as may by them be judged eligible, and for no other
 23 purposes.

1 Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the said corporation, by
 2 the name and title aforesaid, be, and shall forever be, capable in
 3 law, to sue and be sued, to plead and be impleaded in any court,
 4 and before any competent jurisdiction within the United States, in
 5 all manner of suits, actions, pleas, complaints, matters and causes,
 6 of whatever kind or nature they may be, in as full and effectual a

7 manner as is competent to any person or persons, bodies politic or
8 corporate.

1 *Sec. 4 And be it further enacted,* That the said corporation shall
2 have full power and authority to make, have, and use a common
3 seal, with such device and inscription as they shall think proper,
4 and the same to break, alter, and renew at their pleasure; to ap-
5 point a treasurer, secretary, and such other officers as they may
6 deem necessary and proper; to assign them their duties, and fix
7 their compensation, and to remove any or all of them from office;
8 appoint another, or others, in their place, as often as they shall
9 think fit; to make, ordain, establish and execute such bye-laws and
10 ordinances of a secular nature, as may be deemed useful for their
11 own government; and the same to alter, amend, or abrogate at plea-
12 sure; to fill up vacancies that may happen in their number between
13 two annual elections; and to determine upon, do, and transact all
14 business and matters appertaining to the said corporation and to
15 the secular affairs of said congregation, agreeably to the rules, or-
16 dinances, and bye-laws thereof, during their continuance in office:
17 *Provided,* That not less than five trustees be a quorum to do busi-
18 ness; that no bye-law, rule or ordinance shall be made, repugnant
19 to the laws of the United States.

1 *Sec. 5. And be it further enacted,* That there shall be an annual
2 meeting of the members belonging to the said congregation, held
3 on the first Monday of _____ in every year hereafter,
4 at their place of public worship, at which time and place the said
5 members, or such of them as may be present, shall elect and

6 choose by ballot, from their own number, nine trustees, to serve for
7 the year ensuing their election and until others shall be elected
8 and appointed to serve in their place.

1 Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That the said trustees shall
2 keep or cause to be kept, in suitable books, just and proper entries
3 of all their proceedings and accounts, and to have them laid before
4 the members of the congregation at every annual meeting, previously
5 to taking the votes, and shall always deliver the said books, toge-
6 ther with all the property of said congregation and corporation, in
7 good order to their successors in office.